

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 1, 2019*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to recovery from being sick, I was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 126; "nay" on Roll Call No. 127; "yea" on Roll Call No. 128; "yea" on Roll Call No. 129; "nay" on Roll Call No. 130; "nay" on Roll Call No. 131; "yea" on Roll Call No. 132; "yea" on Roll Call No. 133; "nay" on Roll Call No. 134; "nay" on Roll Call No. 135; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 136.

## HONORING BARRY BIERMANN

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 1, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Barry Biermann for his years of dedicated service as a member of the Cal Fire community and as the Napa County Fire Chief.

Mr. Biermann is a Napa County, California native. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from California State University, Chico and has served Napa County as a CalFire employee since 1986. He began his tenure with CalFire as a seasonal firefighter. In 2007 he became a Battalion Chief and in 2014 was promoted to be the County Fire Chief for Napa County. Additionally, Mr. Biermann is a Hazmat specialist and is a fifteen-year member of the CalFire Incident Management Team. Some of his responsibilities have included managing the Oroville Spillway Emergency, the Valley Fire, and the Atlas Fire/Napa Complex Fires of 2017.

Mr. Biermann is known for remaining calm during emergencies and has a disposition that puts others at ease during difficult situations. He is an important member of and asset to our community. He is also a loving husband to his wife and dedicated father to their two sons.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Biermann is the committed community member we should all strive to be. He has dedicated his career to helping our community and diving head first into dangerous situations to protect others. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Barry Biermann here today.

## IN RECOGNITION OF MASSACHUSETTS MILITARY SUPPORT FOUNDATION

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 1, 2019*

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation for its commendable service to its community and country during the recent government shutdown.

Started in 2014, the Cape Cod Military Support Foundation now provides programs and

services that support the thousands of service members and their families at Joint Base Cape Cod. In 2017, founder Don Cox and his team saw a larger need to expand across the Commonwealth to support active duty military, coast guard, national guard, veterans, and their families, creating the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation.

The recent government shutdown brought the loss of paychecks for members of the United States Coast Guard. The Massachusetts Military Support Foundation took immediate action, opening an empowerment center on the Cape to provide food, groceries, and baby supplies to members of our Coast Guard and their families. Soon they had opened a center in Boston and others across the Commonwealth to ensure no family was without food. The Massachusetts Military Support Foundation worked tirelessly to manage food deliveries from Maine to Rhode Island and went above and beyond for our community in a time of need.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation for its dedication to serving our community and members of the United States Coast Guard. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the foundation for its incredible work and wishing it all the best as it continues to support our service members and their families.

## ELLYSIA VEGA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 1, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ellysia Vega for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ellysia Vega is a student at Jefferson Jr/Sr. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ellysia Vega is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ellysia Vega for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

## IN RECOGNITION OF ITC(SW) MICHAEL S. HAMMER

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 1, 2019*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the active duty retirement of ITC(SW) Michael S. Hammer, a brave and honorable man who dedicated his life to the U.S. Navy.

ITC(SW) Michael S. Hammer enlisted in the Navy in 1994 and shipped out the day after

graduating high school. His first overseas deployment was with the Commander Submarine Group Seven in Yokosuka, Japan. There he supported telecommunications to deployed and shore based units. ITC(SW) Hammer then went back to school but soon returned to Japan on his assignment to the Commander Seventh Fleet which embarked on the USS *Blue Ridge*. ITC(SW) Hammer then served a shore duty assignment with the Naval Security Group Activity, as a computer network analyst and an assistant Command Master-at-Arms in Fort Meade.

His third tour took ITC(SW) Hammer back stateside to the Naval Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic, where he served as both the Joint Forces Tactical Operations and Communications Officer and Operations Administrative Leading Chief. He next was deployed back out to sea on the USS *Mahan* as the leading Chief for the Radio Division as well as the Command Information Assurance Manager. ITC(SW) Hammer spent his following shore duty at the Navy Yard, serving as the Field Support Activity. Finally, ITC(SW) Hammer was deployed on his last tour on the USS *Truxtun* with the USS *George H.W. Bush* Carrier Strike Group to the Middle East and Mediterranean. While there, he performed the duties of Radio Leading Chief and the command's Information Systems Security Manager.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the incredible accomplishments of ITC(SW) Michael S. Hammer. Words alone cannot express our gratitude for his service. May God bless ITC(SW) Michael S. Hammer and the U.S. Navy.

## HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF KLUGER, KAPLAN, SILVERMAN, KATZEN &amp; LEVINE, P.L.

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 1, 2019*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the law firm of Kluger, Kaplan, Silverman, Katzen & Levine, P.L. on celebrating their 10th anniversary.

Kluger Kaplan was founded in 2009 by attorneys Alan J. Kluger and Abbey Kaplan. Since opening, they have expanded their offices from Miami and Boca Raton, Florida to Minneapolis, Minnesota. The firm focuses on a range of disciplines and industries, including business and corporate litigation, real estate litigation, securities and financial fraud, corporate governance, bankruptcy litigation and debtor and creditor's rights, appeals in state and federal courts, professional liability, intellectual property law, entertainment sports law, fashion law, class actions, and complex matrimonial litigation.

Kluger Kaplan has always taken great pride in the work that they do on behalf of their clients and has rightly earned national recognition for that work.

As a firm, they have made giving back to their community a top priority. Organizations they are working with include: The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), America's Second Harvest, Boy Scouts of America, Chapman Partnership for Homeless,

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, Diabetes Research Institute, Dr. Abe Chames Foundation, Florida International University Alumni Association, Friends for Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Hispanic Unity Charity, Jewish Adoption & Foster Care Options (JAFCO), Lawyers for Literacy, Legal Services of Greater Miami, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Miami Art Museum, Miami Children's Museum, Miracle League of Howard—Palmetto, Howard-Palmetto Baseball & Softball Association, Mt. Sinai Foundation, Museum of Contemporary Art, Samuel Scheck Hillel Community Day School's President's Award for Pro-Bono Work, and Top Responsibility Israel, Business & Education Society (TRIBES).

As an attorney and former judge, who practiced law in South Florida for many years, it is always great to see the success of law firms such as Kluger, Kaplan, Silverman, Katzen & Levine, P.L. The firm's esteemed lawyers continue to be advocates for their clients, taking on many complex cases around the nation.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor Kluger, Kaplan, Silverman, Katzen & Levine, P.L. on the occasion of their 10th anniversary. They have had a tremendous impact on our community over the past 10 years, I wish them many more years of continued success.

HONORING ANNA SACCENTE OF  
ORANGE, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to submit to the RECORD a powerful statement by thirteen-year-old Ms. Anna Saccente of Orange, Connecticut. I have had the honor knowing Anna for her entire thirteen years and could not be more proud of the young woman she has become.

Despite recent shootings at schools across the country, Congress has failed to pass meaningful reform to school safety and firearm regulations and has instead spent time debating arming teachers. As part of a school assignment, Anna chose to focus on this important issue—a policy that, as a student, would impact her directly.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House not to forget that at the core of this discussion is the fact that the lives of children like Anna are impacted every day by gun violence. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD her poignant words.

GUNS IN CLASSROOMS?

(By Ms. Anna Saccente)

Many people in today's world think that putting guns in classrooms would make them a safer and more productive environment. The truth is that it will actually make the classrooms more dangerous and make students more focused on the guns just feet away from them. Many government officials have brought up the idea of arming the staff in the nation's schools. The teachers who agree to get trained and carry a gun would receive a yearly bonus. The money they would be receiving is not worth the dangers it would pose to the students and staff in the schools. Teachers and other school officials should not be armed with guns. Although

some people think arming teachers would be safer, teachers and other school officials should not be armed, because getting the proper training and firearms would be expensive, schools may lose many talented teachers and possibly students due to their beliefs about the guns, and it would also be more dangerous.

One reason why teachers and other staff should not be armed is that it would cost the schools and government a very large amount of money. Where would the funding for such a project come from? An article written by a group of medical professionals states that, "Funding for any program is imperative—quality firearms are expensive and we question how this would be paid for when schools already struggle with funding for basic educational resources" (Rogers 1).

This quote is significant because the schools and government cannot expect the teachers to pay for all the guns and training themselves. The government would need some way to find the money, and so far they have not. There are about 3.6 million teachers in the United States as of 2018. A company in Maryland charges you about one hundred dollars per person for general training. In total it would cost about 360 million dollars. If you were to get them the more vigorous training the price would shoot up to about one thousand dollars per person. The total cost for that would be about 3.6 billion dollars. Then they would have to pay for the guns. If they were to get the teachers the Glock G17, a very popular gun, it would cost about 1.8 billion dollars (Bump 2). To get them all the guns and the advanced training it would cost over 5 billion dollars. Why would the government spend so much money on something that is not necessary and would not help. Clearly putting guns in the classrooms is a very pricey project.

Along with being very dangerous many people do not believe in using guns, including some parents and teachers. If a school decides to make all of the teachers carry guns teachers could quit, and parents could pull their kids out of school. "Teachers have to teach, and that's what they should be doing," said Joel Myrick, a former assistant principal at a high school in Mississippi. "It doesn't matter what a pistolero you are, or think you are. You don't need to be in a school in charge of protecting children." Like Myrick, many other people feel that if they give teachers the guns it will take their minds off of teaching and defeat the whole purpose of school. If this happens the talented teachers will quit and go somewhere that does not allow such deadly weapons. Then, as a result, the schools will start to lose teachers and who will be left to teach?

After the University of Texas decided to allow firearms on campus multiple professors resigned (Rogers 1). This will only keep happening. Because many people do not like guns, if they permit them in the classrooms, then teachers may quit and parents could pull their kids out of school.

Many people argue that it would be a better, safer option to put guns in teachers hands, but in reality it is more dangerous. Putting guns in the classrooms brings up enormous risk to the life and mental well-being of the students and teachers in them. After the recent school shootings many kids have gotten anxious or nervous that this would happen to their school. Putting the guns in their classrooms will make them more nervous. Improper storage of the guns could lead to student access or someone else stealing it (Rogers 1). If the teacher goes to leave the room for a minute and the gun is left unattended, a student could gain access to the gun. This could lead to someone getting seriously injured. Imagine if this was a first grade classroom. Six and seven year

olds do not really know what a gun is, let alone how to use one. They could pick it up, thinking it was a toy, and that would not end well. In an article written by Michael Hansen, a Brown University Chair and Director, states that, "Professional police officers hit their intended targets less than 20% of the time in training situations. Armed teachers will have an even lower accuracy rate, and where will all of those stray bullets go?" (Hansen 1). If a professional police officer is having trouble hitting a target then the teachers are certainly not going to be able to hit the target in a very stressful situation. If they shoot a bullet at their intended target and miss, and there was someone behind the target, what would happen to that bullet? Because of the dangers associated with putting guns in classrooms, they clearly should not be in there in the first place.

Imagine a world where you would not have to worry about sending your child to a school that is not safe. The students could attend their schools without the fear of guns on the top of their minds. Instead of protecting them, the teachers would only have to worry about teaching the students. For the safety of the students and staff, it would not be a good option to arm the staff in your children's schools. Many people believe it would be safer, but in reality proper training and quality firearms would cost a lot of money, money that would be better spent elsewhere. Many people who oppose them may leave the schools, and it would cause more harm to the people in the schools. So go and do something about it. Go and help make the schools a safer place for everyone in them by contacting your elected officials and opposing any effort to arm teachers.

WORKS CITED

Bump, Philip. "The Economics of Arming America's Schools." The Washington Post, Washington Post, 22 Feb. 2018, [www.washingtonpost.com/news/politics/wp/2018/02/22/the-economics-of-arming-americas-schools/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.ee50434394d1](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/politics/wp/2018/02/22/the-economics-of-arming-americas-schools/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.ee50434394d1). Accessed 7 Mar. 2019.

Hansen, Michael. "There are ways to make schools safer and teachers stronger—but they don't involve guns." Brown Center Chalkboard, Brookings, 27 Feb. 2018, [www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2018/02/27/there-are-ways-to-make-schools-safer-and-teachers-stronger-but-they-dont-involve-guns/](http://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2018/02/27/there-are-ways-to-make-schools-safer-and-teachers-stronger-but-they-dont-involve-guns/). Accessed 7 Mar. 2019.

Proulx, Natalie. "Should Teachers Be Armed With Guns?" The New York Times, New York Times, 23 Feb. 2018, [www.nytimes.com/2018/02/23/learning/should-teachers-be-armed-with-guns.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/23/learning/should-teachers-be-armed-with-guns.html). Accessed 7 Mar. 2019.

Rogers, Melanie. "Is Arming Teachers Our Nation's Best Response to Gun Violence? The Perspective of Public Health Students." PMC, US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health Search database, July 2018, [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5993415/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5993415/). Accessed 7 Mar. 2019.

SAINT WAKE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Saint Wake for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Saint Wake is a student at Moore Middle School and received this award because his